



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

### Fish and Wildlife Service

For release June 26, 1995

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#### SERVICE PROPOSES TEMPORARY APPROVAL OF BISMUTH-TIN SHOT FOR 1995-96 HUNTING SEASON

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today proposed extending the temporary, conditional approval of bismuth-tin shot for the 1995-96 waterfowl hunting season.

The proposal would allow the use of bismuth-tin shot while the Bismuth Cartridge Company completes long-term toxicity tests required by law.

"To date, there has been no indication that bismuth-tin is toxic to waterfowl," said Paul Schmidt, chief of the Service's Migratory Bird Management Office. "Therefore, we propose to allow hunters the opportunity to use it during the upcoming season while the company finishes its testing."

If the proposal is approved, bismuth-tin would join steel as the only types of shot currently approved for waterfowl hunting. Lead shot was phased out for waterfowl hunting because it is toxic to birds that ingest it while feeding.

The Bismuth Cartridge Company petitioned the Service in June 1994 requesting the Service legalize the use of bismuth-tin shot. The petition acknowledged the company's responsibility to complete three studies to determine the effects of ingested bismuth-tin shot on waterfowl.

The Service gave temporary approval for use of bismuth-tin shot for the latter part of the 1994-95 season after the company submitted data for an initial short-term test that showed no toxicity.

For permanent approval, the company must submit the results of a chronic 14-week toxicity test in cold weather using a nutritionally deficient diet and a chronic dosage study that includes reproductive assessment.

The proposal was published in the June 13, 1995, Federal Register. Written comments may be submitted until July 14, 1995, to: Chief (MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 634 Arlington Square, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240.